Message Text

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AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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EXDIS

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: MARR, UNSC, XF, LE, IS, PL, UR

SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: QUESTION OF POLISH UNIT FOR UNIFIL

REF: A. STATE 83810 (NOTAL), B. USUN 1241, C. WARSAW 2702 (NOTAL)

1. WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHAT THE GOP REACTION WOULD BE IF A POLISH ENGINEERING COMPANY WERE INVITED INTO UNIFIL FOR MINE CLEARING (REF B), AS CONTRASTED WITH THEIR PRESENT UNEF ROLE, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS LARGELY CONCERNED WITH TRANSPORTATION. THIS WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE A "LOGISTICAL" FUNCTION AS SUGGESTED IN REF A, AND THE POLES MIGHT BE CONCONFIDENTIAL

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CERNED THAT SOME PALESTINIAN QUARTERS WOULD VIEW THE ROLE OF THE POLISH CONTINGENT AS DIRECTED AGAINST THEM.

2. WE ALSO NOTE THAT MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR PAWLAK, IN A CONVERSATION WITH DAS HELMAN MARCH 30 (REF C), INDICATED STRONG RE-

LUCTANCE ON POLAND'S PART TO PARTICIPATE IN FURTHER UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. WHILE NOT REJECTING PARTICIPATION IN PRINCIPLE, PAWLAK SAID POLAND WOULD BE WILLING TO BECOME ENGAGED IN SUCH OPERATIONS ONLY WHERE POLAND'S NATIONAL INTERESTS, AS WELL AS LARGER GOLBAL INTERESTS, WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. HE ADDED THAT HE SAW LITTLE AHEAD TO SUGGEST THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

- 3. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOP LEADERSHIP HAS MADE ABUNDANTLY EVIDENT TIS INTEREST IN CUTTING A DISTINCT FIGURE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY MULTILATERAL ONES, AND FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK HAS ASSIDUOUSLY SOUGHT TO CULTIVATE A WORLD STATESMAN'S IMAGE. AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIFIL AS THE ONLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EAST EUROPEAN GROUP COULD HAVE APPEAL IN TERMS OF THOSE INTERESTS.
- 4. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS CERTAIN THAT POLAND'S RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN UNIFIL WOULD ULTIMATELY BE DETERMINED BY THE SOVIET ATTITUDE ON THE QUESTION.
- 5. WITH RESPECT TO FINANCING UNIFIL OPERATIONS, I PER-SONALLY RECALL THEN-SOVIET DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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SAFRONCHUK IN 1974 FIRMLY DEFENDING THE PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN CRITICISM OF PRC REFUSAL TO PAY ITS PEACE-KEEPING OBLIGATIONS.
SCHAUFELE

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